

Amend Claim 19 to read:

19. A process for the preparation of alkylene glycols comprising reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst of the formula  $M'B_x$  wherein  $M'$  is a Group IIIB, rare earth metal, actinide or ~~Group IVB~~hafnium cation, B is a coordinating anion and x is the valence of  $M'$ .

Amend Claim 25 to read:

25. A process for the preparation of alkylene glycols comprising reacting an alkylene oxide with water in the presence of a catalyst of the formula  $M''A_xB_y$  wherein  $M''$  is a Group IIIB, rare earth metal, actinide or ~~Group IVB~~hafnium cation, A is a non-coordinating or weakly coordinating anion, B is a coordinating anion and  $x+y$  equals the valence of  $M''$ .

Remarks and Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

Amendment to the Claims are reflected in the Listing of Claims which begins on page 6 of this paper.